AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Previously amended). A flexible laminated sheet material having edge regions and a center region, the material comprising

an air-permeable first layer having a first face and a second face opposite the first face,

a second layer being substantially air-impermeable but having a set of perforations therethrough at a selected part of the second layer to provide a controlled air permeability at the selected part,

the selected part comprising a first region and a second region, the perforations being of different dimensions in the first region from those in the second region to facilitate an even distribution of air escaping from the perforations across the selected area in response to an air pressure drop across the material from the edge regions towards the center region,

the second layer being laminated to the first face of the first layer, and

a third layer laminated to the second face of the first layer opposite that carrying the second layer, the third layer being air-impermeable and the first layer being permeable to air in a direction parallel to the surface of the sheet material and in a direction extending transversely to the surface of the sheet material to enable a desired air flow through the first layer for discharge through said selected parts of the second layer.

2 (Original). A sheet material according to Claim 1 wherein the second layer is of uniform thickness.

3 (Canceled).

4 (Previously amended). A sheet material according to claim 1 wherein all the perforations are to the range of 0.1 mm to 1.6 mm in diameter.

5-20 (Canceled).

21 (Previously amended). A sheet material according to claim 1 or 2 or 4 wherein the first layer is a textile fabric.

22 (Original). A sheet material according to claim 21 wherein the second layer is a polyurethane composition.

23 (Canceled).

24 (Previously amended). A sheet material according to claim 1 wherein the

perforations in the first region are larger than those in the second region.

25 (Previously amended). A sheet material according to claim 1 wherein the perforations in the first and second region each have a diameter between 0.1 mm and 1.6 mm.

26 (Previously amended). A sheet material according to claim 1 wherein the first region extends lengthwise along a central part of the sheet material and the second region extends lengthwise at either side of the central part.

27 (Previously amended). A sheet material according to claim 1 wherein the third layer is a polyurethane composition.

28 (Previously amended). A sheet material according to claim 1 wherein one or more longitudinally extending ducts are provided between the second and third layers for ducting air under pressure to the first layer.

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29 (Previously amended). A sheet material according to claim 1 comprising one or more openings in the second layer through which air under pressure can be supplied to the first layer.

30 (Previously amended). A method of making a laminated sheet material comprising:

(a) procuring an air permeable first layer;

(b) laminating to one face of the first layer, an air-impermeable second layer comprising a material of uniform thickness;

(c) laminating to the face of the first layer opposite to the face carrying the second layer, an air-impermeable third layer of uniform thickness; and

(d) forming a set of perforations through the second layer at a selected part thereof, the perforations being of different dimensions in a first region from those in a second region to facilitate an even distribution of air escaping from the perforations across the selected part in response to an air pressure drop across the material from the edge regions towards the center region.

31 (Previously amended). A method according to claim 30 wherein the first layer is a textile fabric.

32 (Previously amended). A method according to claim 30 or 31 wherein the second layer is a polyurethane composition.

33 (Previously amended). A method according to claim 30 wherein the perforations are made by perforating the second layer after the first and second layers have been laminated to one another.

34 (Canceled).

35 (Previously amended). A method according to claim 30 wherein the second layer is laminated with the first layer by transfer-coating.

36 (Previously amended). A method according to claim 30 wherein the third layer is laminated with the first layer by transfer-coating.

37 (Previously added). A sheet material according to claim 4 wherein all the perforations are to the range of 0.6 mm to 1.2 mm.

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38 (Previously added). A flexible laminated sheet material comprising

an air-permeable first layer having an air inlet adapted to receive an air supply from an air supply source,

a second layer being substantially air-impermeable but having a set of outlet air perforations therethrough at a selected part of the second layer,

the second layer being laminated to one face of the first layer, and

means for directing air from the air supply source through the inlet and through the first layer in a direction parallel to a surface of the second layer and transverse to the second layer through the outlet perforations in the second layer.

39 (Re-presented – formerly dependent claim 39). A <u>flexible laminated</u> sheet material <u>comprising</u> ~~as in claim 38~~

<u>an air-permeable first layer having an air inlet adapted to receive an air supply from an air supply source,</u>

<u>a second layer being substantially air-impermeable but having a set of outlet air perforations therethrough at a selected part of the second layer,</u>

<u>the second layer being laminated to one face of the first layer, and</u>

<u>means for directing air from the air supply source through the inlet and through the first layer in a direction parallel to a surface of the second layer and transverse to the second layer through the outlet perforations in the second layer,</u>

wherein the selected part comprises a first region and a second region, the

perforations being of different dimensions in the first region from those in the second region to facilitate an even distribution of air escaping from the perforations across the selected area in response to an air pressure drop across the material from the edge regions towards the center region.